

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**The paragraph beginning on page 21, line 8 has been amended as follows:**

When the forceps 12a and 12b are closed, in the present embodiment, moreover, the forceps control wire holding pins 23a and 23b are situated overlapping the central axis O (that is, the forceps control wire holding pins 23a and 23b are situated on or near a reference plane P that passes through the longitudinal central axis [[O1]] O of the sheath 4 and extends parallel to the second rocking axis O2) (see FIGS. 3B and 4C). Therefore, one end face (outward end face) 98 of each of forceps control wire holding pins 23a and 23b that face (or are opposed to) the flat portions 15a and 15b of the tip cover 11 are substantially in the form of a flat surface (see FIG. 4C). As the forceps control wire holding pins 23a and 23b are situated overlapping the central axis O of the tissue picking portion 5, moreover, the forceps supporting pins 22a and 22b and the forceps control wire outlet portions 18a and 18b are situated in positions eccentric to the central axis O of the tissue picking portion 5 (that is, a plane that passes through the first rocking axis O1 and extends parallel to the reference plane P is not coincident with a plane that passes through the second rocking axis O2 and extends parallel to the reference plane P, and the first rocking axis O1 is not on the reference plane P).